



The Flaming Chalice

The newsletter of The Unitarian Universalist Community Church
69 Winthrop Street ~ PO Box 8 ~ Augusta, ME 04332-0008

January-2018

Sunday Worship Services at 9:15 & 11:00

January Theme

Unitarian Universalist Identity
We covenant to affirm and promote
A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

January 7

“The Holy Work of Showing Up”

Rev. Carie Johnsen
Julia Fitz-Randolph*

The current political landscape has progressive people of faith reeling. Our Unitarian Universalist ancestors and decedents are beckoning us, compelling us onward toward greater compassion and greater connection to one another and to the earth. Together, we are resilient and resourceful enough to say yes to that call and be part of building that world of which we dream but have not yet seen.

***Julia Fitz-Randolph** is the Co-chair of the Maine UU State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN) and Chair of the Midcoast UU Fellowship’s Social Justice Committee in Damariscotta. MUUSAN’s legislative ministry links our state’s 25 UU **congregations to advocate our** shared values **in** Maine’s public square. Julia is a decades long Unitarian Universalist, **life-long community activist, and** recently retired marketing, development, and communications professional living with **her wife in** Pemaquid.

January 14

“Chaos or Community”

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Finding inspiration for our times the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King’s book “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community.”

January 21

“You May Be Wrong”

Rev. Carie Johnsen

The free and responsible search for truth and meaning is a bit like driving a car with GPS, you may occasionally take a wrong turn and need to recalibrate. And when you find yourself with the inaccurate directions and lost in the wildness, you may need to ask for help. Or you could try the scenic route trusting your wiser self or some sort of something somewhere to guide you home.

January 28

“Ultimate White Privilege”

Hal Booth

Hal Booth spent his childhood/early teens in South Africa under apartheid in the 1950s and early 1960s. This service will explore some of the aspects of life in a country where white privilege was the law of the land, and how that reality can affect thinking and attitudes.

At Unitarian Universalist Community Church the lay and retired pastoral ministers serve as an extension of my ministry. They offer a caring response to emergencies that affect individuals, families and the congregation as a whole, as well as issues within the community. The Team provides a connection to the church for members and friends when worship service attendance becomes impractical or impossible. Some members bring our church's values and concerns out into the wider Augusta community.

Last year the pastoral ministry team developed a yearlong faith formation series on death and dying. This series offered members and friends a unique space to explore themes of death in a community that cares. Curious conversations, deep dialogue, and personal sharing met the human longing to speak truth to fears and joys of living and dying.

This month the pastoral ministry team launches the second adult faith formation series: *Sacred Sexuality: A Journey of a Lifetime. The Spirituality of Sexuality*. I am very excited to share with you the four sessions scheduled for this winter.

On January 7th Gary Chapin will facilitate a community conversation. *That's the Story of Love?: Finding Loving Kindness in Any Place, Any Time, and Many Forms.*

Is there any tale more prevalent in our time than The Love Story? But how many of us does THE Love Story work for? What is our love story -- yours, theirs, mine? How does that story bring us to love? What kind of love? And what happens when it goes off the rails? Particularly recommended for anyone who has ever felt that their heart has been replaced by a scar at some point.

On February 4, 2018 Autumn Jackson will moderate a panel of teens. *Dialogues with a New Generation*

A panel of LGBTQIAP+ youth and young adults will share their stories, wisdom, and experiences. We will discuss language, labels, what it means to be young and queer in a rural state, how our faiths and/or lack of faiths impact our queer experience, and how attendees can be better allies to the youth in their lives. By the Way, the acronym stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, pansexual, and anyone else in the queer spectrum of identities.

On March 4, 2018 I will facilitate a conversation exploring the *Body as Temple*.

The poet Jane Kenyon once wrote of "the long struggle to be at home in the body, this difficult friendship." Who of us does not have intimate knowledge of how difficult this friendship can be?

Using the book *Honoring the Body* by Stephanie Paulsell, we will explore how *to celebrate the body's pleasures, protect the body's vulnerabilities, and develop the practices that will ultimately transform our troubled relationship with our bodies to one of honor and joy.*

In our final session on March 18, 2018 Martha Pelletier will moderate a panel presentation. *SEXcessful Aging*

Sexual expression is an essential part of our human journey. While sexuality evolves and changes as we age, it is present from birth to death. Our desire for closeness, intimacy and touch is an essential part of our very being. In this session we will explore sexual health and well being in later life. Guest speakers will join the conversation by bringing specialized knowledge and training to enrich our lives and deepen our sexual experiences throughout the aging process.

Please join us! We hope these conversations will affirm your journey as a sexual being.

Our prayer for each and all: *Where there is hurt, may we invite healing. Where there is vulnerability, may we support your protection. Where there is loneliness, may we share the journey. Where there is body mindfulness, may we encourage self-care. Where there is uncertainty, may we support wholeness. Where there is a story to tell, may we listen you into grace. Where there is pleasure, may we avow creators gift.*

In faith, Rev. Carie Johnsen

President's Message

Dear members, friends, visitors of UUCC,

Happy New Year! Maybe you are saying "Phew" another holiday season is done....Maybe you are still savoring the time spent with family and/or friends Maybe you built memories to warm you throughout the new year.....Maybe an experience at UUCC was particularly meaningful for you during the holiday season.....Maybe it was the first holiday time without a loved one.....Maybe other unhappy or difficult memories of past holiday times were raised again for you.....

The new year can be a time of reflection about the just past year, but it also can be a time of looking forward to the possibilities for another year. As I outlined in the year end donation letter 2017 was an exciting year at UUCC. As I look ahead I see more of the same!

We are looking for the right person to lead the Religious Exploration. I wonder what changes this might bring to UUCC and the RE offerings at UUCC? Thank you, Brigid Chapin, for your leadership and caring spirit shared with us all and especially the children at UUCC. Best wishes as you move ahead in exploring your background and restoring of yourself.

We will be continuing our celebration of the 25th anniversary of the merger of the Unitarian and Universalist churches of Augusta. We are looking forward to a grand finale in June. More details will follow soon. As a relative newcomer it has been interesting for me to learn more about this church which has come to mean a great deal to me in the last 5 years. Just the other day a friend who attends another UU church was telling me about a small group spiritual growth group she attended. I felt so happy that I could share the beginnings of the small group ministry program at UUCC with her. She was impressed and grateful for this initiative.

We will once again be having a financial campaign to fund the 2018-19 budget year beginning July 1, 2018. I have a hope that we will fully fund the budget with pledges. Maybe 2018 will be the year we do this! We can then have community times without the pressure of adding fund raising to them. I would suggest now is the time to begin your reflection about the value of UUCC in your lives and consider your upcoming pledge to fund the church and all its programs and initiatives.

With all the events happening in the state, nation and world there will be many opportunities to respond with letters, actions, and/or protests. UUCC can provide a community to support you to step up and take this action. Together we can celebrate positive changes and maybe cry together if needed. You can always find others who think in similar ways to you.

I hope you see UUCC as an integral element in your life, a living presence to offer you worship time, support, comfort, challenge, learning, and community as you move into and through 2018.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2018.
Martha Naber, President Board of Trustees

Church Fair Announcement

UUCC just held a successful fundraising fair on Dec. 3 raising almost \$1000!
Planning is beginning already for the next fair on Dec. 1, 2018.
Nancy Fritz, Martha Naber and Nan Bell have offered to chair this fundraiser.
Each month activity will be done to contribute to the fair items.
Watch the newsletter for details! We appreciate your help.
Have fun and build community as we raise funds for UUCC.

**Sacred Sexuality: A Journey of a Lifetime
The Spirituality of Human Sexuality**



That's the Story of Love:
Finding Loving Kindness in Any Place,
Any Time, and Many Forms.
Sunday, January 7, 2018
12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Is there any tale more prevalent in our time than The Love Story? But how many of us does THE Love Story work for? What is our love story -- yours, theirs, mine? How does that story bring us to love? What kind of love? And what happens when it goes off the rails? Particularly recommended for anyone who has ever felt that their heart has been replaced by a scar at some point.

Brown bag lunch encouraged. We will provide desserts, tea, and coffee.
Adults of all ages welcome. Attend one or more sessions.
The series is free and open to the public.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming sessions:
February 4, 2018 Dialogues with a New Generation
March 4, 2018 Body as Temple
March 18, 2018 SEXcessful Aging

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

"COME SING A SONG WITH ME"
with Annie Voorhees
January 19, 6:30 to 7:30



Let's get together and sing songs we love!
Hymns! Standards! Showtunes! Chants! Folksongs!
Bring an instrument if you'd like, or bring a piece of sheet music to share and sing.
Please joins us and share your voice.

Special Service

A Quiet Refuge: Cultivating peace and calm in a anxious world

Tuesday, January 16, 2018
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

We live in complicated times. All too often we either bear witness to or find ourselves experiencing increased stress and tension, anxiety and depression. This evening vespers style service offers a contemplative space to restore the spirit, cultivate peace and bring mindfulness to our busy lives.

In this time together may we:
strengthen our commitment to love even when love is hard,
find the courage to speak truth with love,
reach across our differences to listen to one another,
and create a community that cares for each other.

Book Discussion Group¹

Christ for Unitarian Universalists

by Scotty McLennan

Facilitators: Rev. Carie Johnsen & Peter Mendall, Sr.

TUESDAYS: Afternoons 2:00 – 4:00 OR Evenings 6:00 – 8:00

~~November 28th—December 19th~~ January 9th January 30th

February 20th March 13th April 3rd

Overview

Christ for Unitarian Universalists is a clarion call for UUs—the vast majority of whom don't identify as Christian—to engage in dialogue with the more than seventy percent of Americans who do so identify.

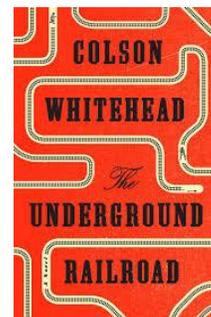
Our tradition has significant continuity with this great historical religion, although that's often overlooked these days. We also have some ideas about how to enhance the practice and experience of Christianity that traditional Christians today might find compelling.

Extra books are available in the church office. Sign up for discussion group at admin@augustauu.org or 207-622-3232. Please state your availability or preference for Tuesday afternoon or evening class. Let us know if childcare is needed.

BOOKS FOR SERIOUS READERS

BOOKS FOR SERIOUS READERS will meet on January 4 from 12:30 to 2:30 in Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing Colson Whitehead's The Underground Railroad. The NY Times says "He has told a story essential to our understanding of the American past and the American present."

On February 1 we will meet to explore The Golem and the Jinni by Helene Wecker. According to the publisher, "Marvelous and compulsively readable, *The Golem and the Jinni* weaves strands of folk mythology, historical fiction, and magical fable into a wondrously inventive and unforgettable tale. You are invited to join us for either or both sessions. FMI contact June Zellers at 582-5862 or jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison at 445-4415 or kell6787@gmail.com.



¹ This is a discussion guide for Scotty McLennan's 2016 Skinner House book, *Christ for Unitarian Universalists: A New Dialogue with Traditional Christianity*

Martin Luther King Day
Speaker Breakfast

Sherri Mitchell
Sacred Instructions:
An Interactive discussion
about healing in ourselves
and in our communities.

Monday, January 15, 2018 10 a.m. – 12 pm St. Francis Xavier Church 130 U.S. Route 133, Winthrop

Sherri Mitchell was born and raised on Penobscot Indian Reservation. She has spent her life working for justice and healing for indigenous peoples. A Lawyer, poet, scholar and philosopher, she is currently the Executive Director of the Land for Peace Foundation

Thank you Senators Shenna Bellows and Roger Katz and Representatives Craig Hickman and Matthew Pouliot for your generous financial contribution

Sponsored by: Winthrop Area Minister Association and Capital Area Multifaith Association

The End of Spirit Play

Dear Community,

This is certainly a time of transition for our program. I write to inform you of one change we make with some sadness, and to say I hope you will understand that this is part of a more concentrated RE visioning process which we have been moving through for two years now, and which we will continue to move through with our new RE coordinator when they step into my role in January.

Because of low attendance numbers and an unfavorable volunteer spread, we have made the decision that it is time for Spirit Play to come to an end. For those who have participated in this classroom, Spirit Play is the RE experience that we have provided during the second service since before I entered this position. It has in the past been a thriving collection of creativity and energy, where we have tackled big ideas and moral questions, and formed connections and friendships that survive still.

This year, our numbers are simply not there. While RE during the first service thrives, Spirit Play has not been attended by children, except sporadically. Though we have always planned for the classroom and provided teachers, there has been many a Sunday where we have not had any children at all during the second service. I tell you this because I hope you understand that our intention in closing Spirit Play is to be able to concentrate the energy of the RE leadership and the community where it is needed and where it is being used: first service classrooms, and the nursery.

I'm happy to address any questions or concerns and to share in the feelings which will certainly arise at the end of this institution.

In faith,
Brigid Chapin

The Survey of Religious Identity Said

*This survey provides a snapshot of the religious diversity at UUCC at Sunday service on December 17, 2017.
A total of 54 surveys were handed in during the offering*

As Unitarian Universalists (UU) religious identity is often a complicated question. Regardless of the complexity of naming the traditions, practices and belief systems that sustain, strengthen, and guide our living, we are curious which tradition(s) inform your UU identity and expression of UU values, and principles.

We invite you to indicate which religious identity MOST describes your worldview, religious perspective, and/or spiritual practices.

<u>45</u>	Unitarian Universalist	_____	Panentheist
_____	Judaism	_____	Pantheist
<u>7</u>	Christianity	_____	Religious Naturalist
_____	Islam	<u>5</u>	Earth-centered
<u>3</u>	Buddhism	<u>1</u>	Pagan
<u>1</u>	Hinduism	<u>1</u>	Wiccan
<u>2</u>	Atheism	<u>3</u>	Goddess
<u>4</u>	Agnostic	<u>1</u>	Native American spirituality
<u>1</u>	Theism	<u>6</u>	Spiritual not religious
<u>1</u>	Humanist		
_____	Other: (write-in)		
			Sacredness of all life
			Don't like labels
			Still looking all of the above

Thirty people indicated they identify first and foremost as a Unitarian Universalist?

Five people said their UU identity secondary.

For three people it was afterthought.

Two people did not identify as UU.

For one person they said it was equal to another identity.

One responded that it is a passive identity.

For one person it is complimentary.

One person is still deciding.

Thirty nine people said their religious perspective or worldview hold a belief in something beyond yourself?

One person responded there may be something beyond themselves.

One person was certain there was nothing beyond ourselves.

The following names are given to that which is never fully known:

God (7)	Goddess (3)	She	Spirit (2)
Mystery (3)	Nature (2)	Great Spirit (3)	Higher Power
That (2)	Source	Soul	The infinite
Mother Earth	Earth (2)	Universe (2)	Spirit of Life
Spirit of life and love and all that is holy		Annica impermanence	Surprise!
Shifts from God, Gaia, to spirit unpredictable what pops up		That which cannot be named	
Sacred, holy or transcendent, Adonai		Belief in the inherent goodness of man	
Universal Benevolence, Tao		Unnameable but sometimes "higher power"	
The green lyon Collective!			

Faith Cafes

The Faith Cafes came about as the result of a churchwide social meeting last Spring in which many people came, ate, and shared their ideas of what they'd like to see more of at the UU Community Church of Augusta (see the charts hanging in the hall). A smaller group met to process the work. Three ideas came to the fore: intergenerational socializing, sharing food, and music. So far we have been mightily successful on all three fronts!

We have had three Faith Cafes so far: the first one was in September and focused on the inherent worth and dignity of each person through learning about the chalice as a symbol of sacrifice, love, hope, community, and reason. One of the activities was the creation of fabric chalice banners, some of which you might have seen hanging in the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall.

At the October Faith Cafe a great group of people converged on the Faust home in Pittston where apples were pressed into delicious cider, folks brought special apple dishes to the potluck, and games were played in the yard.

Hannah Faulkner led the December Faith Cafe. She created a fantastic booklet of carols that we used for caroling and will be used again for years to come. Jenny McKendry kept us on track with her keyboard and her musical skills. Judy McCown and Bruce Bierce worked their magic and had a beautiful spread set out for the hungry and thirsty singers on their return.

There are going to be more Faith Cafes, one each month of the church year til June. Next month will be a pizza party sponsored by the Pastoral Care Leaders. If you've attended one of these events, you know how fun they are. If you've been unable to attend, or just shy, come on out! Give the church a call if you want a ride. Stay tuned and we'll see you in the New Year!

Liza Gottlieb

January Faith Café

Pastoral Pizza Party
Friday, January 12, 2018
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

What could be better in the middle of a Maine winter than a PIZZA PARTY!! We will provide the pizzas. You can provide the side salads, dessert, and beverages. Bring what is easiest for you and your family.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: A human scavenger hunt will connect us across the ages in ways we cannot even yet imagine. It is sure to bring us closer together with a few laughs and some unknown fun facts about each other

MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS: Conversations about truth and meaning with people of all ages will transform the way we conspire with each other to create a more compassionate world community.

SHARE A RIDE: I'll give a ride. I'll take a ride. Contact Lynn admin@augustauu.org 622-3232.

CONCERT AT THE UCC!



SATURDAY, JAN. 13TH at 4PM
(Inclement weather date Jan. 20th)

Christine Letcher, piano
With Bill Moseley, flute

Keyboard Music Spanning Four Centuries

Pianist, Christine Letcher, will perform solo piano works by Mozart, Chopin, and African-American composer Margaret Bonds. Her program will also feature flutist, Bill Moseley, with J.S. Bach's Flute Sonata in B minor, a work originally written for Baroque flute and harpsichord.

Christine's bio:

Christine Letcher received a Master of Music degree in piano performance from Northwestern University and a Bachelor of Music degree from Westminster Choir College of Rider University. While both of her degrees have a piano focus, Christine has always been a singer and was trained from an early age by James McKeever, and throughout her undergraduate studies with Anne Ackley Gray, both Westminster Choir College professors. After graduating, Christine was on the faculty of Westminster Conservatory of Music and presented lecture recitals about women composers for seminars hosted by Westminster Choir College as well as service organizations in New Jersey. Prior to moving to Maine, she served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco. Christine is the Assistant Director and on the faculty of Snow Pond Community Music School in Sidney, and an Adjunct Faculty member of the University of Maine at Augusta. She teaches piano, voice, and is the director of the Snow Pond Pantasticks Steel Drum Band. Christine recently joined a Pan Coalition from Maine to compete in the first International Panorama, a steel drum competition in Trinidad. Christine has sung with the Androscoggin Chorale, The Occasional Chorale, the Choral Arts Society's Camerata, Singers, and Masterworks Choirs, and she has been a member of the St Mary Schola since its inception in 2008.

LIBRARY NOTES

Where do you find UU values and principles embedded in literature? Try [The Olympia Brown Mysteries!](#) Judith Campbell, a UU minister and mystery writer, uses adventures of Rev. Olympia Brown (named for an historic Universalist minister) to explore issues, including religious cults, inheritance theft, bullying, clergy misconduct, and sexual trade.

We are setting aside space for special collections in the UCC Library. We have the shelf for Meditation Manuals by UUs, and UU Forums. The Mysteries will be the next special series (Upper right shelf).

Contact: Jean Sizelove, Thursday morning Small Group Ministry, mesizelove@roadrunner.com 623-5096

Elder Lunch at Noon January 14th

Elder lunch is the second Sunday of each month October through May.

This event has grown in popularity and 35-40 of our elders enjoy lunch and conversation. Plan to relax and socialize with your friends after the second service. Menu always includes breads, salad, entree and dessert. Church elder lunch is not exclusive to Senior Citizens – we have regular attendees in their 40s and 50s too so please self-select and join us.

Each event requires two large salads, 4 entrees choices, and plates of finger desserts.

Could you cook an eight portion casserole, quiche or soup for the Elder Lunch just once this year?

Or are you willing to cook a finger food desert like cookies, brownies or bars?

Or would you be willing to bring a large green salad or cole slaw?

If you aren't a cook, would you be willing to help setup, serve or clear?

Please call Marilyn Dunn to schedule your contribution 512-5382

GODDESS/EARTH CIRCLES

Join us in the Goddess/Earth Circles monthly gatherings, 12:15-2pm, usually in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. We share light refreshments, share briefly, and have a topic. For the next three months, we are meeting several Goddesses:

January 28 Laksmi, A Hindu Goddess, introduced by Heide Munro.

February 25 Hekate, a Greek Goddess, introduced by Helen Zidowecki

March 25 Lilith, A Hebrew Goddess, introduced by Nance Caldwell

For more information about Goddess/Earth Circles, contact Helen Zidowecki, hzmre@hzmre.com or 582-5308.

The Supper Times

The 1st Saturday Community Supper News 12/2/17

Jenny Mckendry, Chief Non- Cook and bottle washer and Co-Leader with Carlene Kaler, Chief Cook and organizer

For the second time we served our monthly supper at South Parish Congregational Church. South Parish had decorated for their annual Holiday Mart and left decorations up for the guests to enjoy, which was very pleasant. Once more we were welcomed and helped by Sue Gayne and Cindy Sloma.

Tonight we warmed up the chilly night with homemade chili, coleslaw, bread and desserts. Everyone went home with plenty.

Thank you Carlene for your prep and hard work. Thank you so much volunteers, who came out despite this busy season. Keith Priest, Heather Priest, Karen Nielsen, Ida Gammon, Heidi Chadbourne, Susan Parks, Cheryl Clukey and grandson Lucas, Tracy McNaughton and coffee guru Judy Colomy. Other volunteers offered to come if needed: Liz Johnson.

Thank you for fine baked goods from Cindy Sloma, Ida Gammon, Martin Spahn, Susan Parks and Jim McKendry.

Panera bread donates bread to us which we serve and send home.



***Unitarian Universalist Community Church
P.O. Box 8
Augusta, Maine 04332-0008***

Newsletter Submissions

Submission Deadline for February newsletter is January 15th
Submissions received after this date may not be able to be published.

Please submit all articles as an attachment in a Word document using Arial font size 11. Don't forget to give your article a title and sign it. Send an email to newsletter@augustauu.org with the article as a word attachment! ***Photos of church activities welcome! *** You will receive a confirmation e-mail of receipt of your submission.

Minister: Reverend Carie Johnsen

Board President: Martha Naber

Sunday Morning RE Coordinator: Brigid Chapin

Youth Advisor: Monique McAuliffe

Choir Director: Bridget Convey

Contact information for Committee chairs and other leaders can be found in the UUCC directory or obtained by contacting the Office Administrator.

Office Administrator: Lynn Smith
Phone: (207)622-3232 or email: admin@augustauu.org

Office hours: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (Tues, Wed & Thurs)
No office hours: Monday or Friday

Rev. Carie's NEW Office Hours:

Monday	off
Tuesday	1:00 – 6:00
Wednesday	2:00 – 6:00
Thursday	Writing Day

Other times and days available by appointment.

Monday is Rev. Carie's Sabbath. She does not attend to emails, phone calls or meetings. For pastoral emergencies please call her cell phone (508) 221-5295. She will return your call as soon as possible.